

# IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AND THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

News You Can Use

No. 17 Winter 2001

## *Are trees considered part of your community's infrastructure?*

See page 4 for some thoughts on this.

### Coordinator's Comments

The dormant season finds me wrapping up projects from last year, attending winter meetings, and making plans for the year ahead. 2001 looks to be another strong year for community forestry in Idaho.

It's great to be part of the growing Green Industry, but only if accompanied by long-term commitment to what we do. As city forestry programs and related businesses grow, it's important that we affiliate ourselves with organizations supporting our efforts. Three that deserve a great deal of credit and attention in Idaho are The National Arbor Day Foundation (NADF), the Pacific Northwest Chapter – International Society of Arboriculture (PNW-ISA) and the Idaho Nursery Association (INA). They don't cost much to join and each provides valuable benefits that support efforts to plan, plant and maintain trees in our cities and at our homes and businesses.

The NADF is an organization for the general public. NADF sponsors the Tree City USA program for cities, providing all recognition materials free of charge. They're also the world's biggest pro-

moter of Arbor Day, offering celebration ideas, educational and gift items, and tons of information relating to trees. There are a number of membership categories and related benefits, each under \$25.00. For specifics, visit: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

The PNW-ISA is a professional organization for individuals and entities involved with tree care. It is a regional chapter tied to an international organization. The \$50.00 annual membership dues provides a quarterly newsletter, discounted prices on a variety of books, videos, clothing and technical "hands-on" training workshops throughout the Northwest. For more information, visit: [www.pnwisa.org](http://www.pnwisa.org).

The INA is a professional organization for those in nursery related professions (garden centers, growers, landscapers, arborists, etc.). Membership benefits include a bimonthly newsletter, legislative representation, certification programs and some great educational opportunities. There is a "Friends of Horticulture" membership category (great for cities) for those not actively engaged in

(continued page 2)



An informational sign — 'Lewis & Clark Gardens' — was unveiled during dedication ceremonies in Lewiston last fall. Don Brigham of the landscape architectural firm Don Brigham Plus

Associates (left) and Lewiston City Forester Mike Bowman hold a painting of the gardens in their mature state. Among other dignitaries at the ceremony were (left to right): Bill Boettcher, Dir. of State & Private Forestry, R-1 USDA Forest Service; Kathy McAllister, Dep. Regional Forester, R-1 USDA Forest Service; Bill Love, Chief, Forestry Assistance Bureau, Idaho Dept. of Lands; and Sandy Patano, State Director for U. S. Sen. Larry Craig.

### Lewiston Plants Gateway Grove

Getting ready for the tide of tourists expected to arrive with the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, the City of Lewiston has used a \$13,000 grant from the USDA Forest Service to plant a two-acre grove at the entrance to town. All trees and shrubs in the grove are linked in some way with the expedition. Interpretive signs throughout the well-landscaped grove tell the story.

The project was the idea of Idaho Community Forestry Council member Del Jaquish of Post Falls, who has suggested two additional groves for Kooskia and Salmon as funds become available. The local Grubby Knuckles Garden Club and numerous other partners teamed up to help make the project a success. Trees and shrubs were purchased at regional nurseries, with several larger trees donated by Reggear Tree Farms.

Sandy Patano of Sen. Craig's office and Bill Love, representing the Idaho Department of Lands, praised the project as an example of cooperation that will provide education and a more pleasing community appearance to tourists during and after the bicentennial. The national commemoration is scheduled from 2003 through 2006.

(Comments continued...)

buying and selling nursery products. For more information, go to: [www.inagrow.org](http://www.inagrow.org).

Mentioning these organizations brings local opportunities to mind – like garden clubs, Master Gardeners, service clubs, 4-H clubs, etc. Becoming part of organizations supporting your interests will benefit you, and give you greater abilities and ideas to bring to your community. Good Luck, and have a great year!

— Craig Foss, Community Forestry Coordinator



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## Free Help for Planning Arbor Day

The National Arbor Day Foundation has announced the availability of a newly revised *Celebrate Arbor Day Guidebook!* The 24-page guide includes a history of Arbor Day, planning calendar, poems and quotes suitable for ceremonies, a sample proclamation, instructions on how to select and plant a tree correctly – and more. Single copies are available free from the Foundation at: P.O. Box 85784, Lincoln, NE 68501-5784, or contact the Idaho Dept. of Lands Community Forestry Program.

## Arbor Day Grants Available

Thanks to the generosity of US Bank, \$3,750 will be added to \$3,750 from Idaho's Community Forestry Trust Account this year, making 50 \$150 grants available to communities for assistance with Arbor Day. Last year, grants were provided to all 55 communities that applied. This resulted in the planting of 602 trees, 1,890 seedlings and shrubs, and other assistance with Arbor Day programs. See the calendar on page 5 for more information.

## Meet a Council Member...

Teri L. Ottens has served on the Idaho Community Forestry Council for 6 years, first representing cities in her capacity as staff member for the Association of Idaho Cities and then as a citizen member. Teri's public interest in trees began when she went to work for the City of Caldwell in 1988. Caldwell was the first Tree City USA in Idaho and one of only four in the state in 1988. Teri worked closely with the city forester, Mike McBride, in developing a landscape ordinance and beautifying the city through tree planting. Her interest continued when she went to work for AIC and began to serve on the Council. Teri has worked with many cities and counties in developing or updating their comprehensive plans and always urges them to include trees when planning their community's future.



Teri has over 20 years experience working with trade associations, public and social service associations, cities, counties, planning agencies and economic development groups. She was a staff member with AIC for four years prior to starting her own consulting firm, Association Management Solutions, in January, 1998. Her previous experience includes seven years as the assistant city manager in Laramie, Wyoming, two years as the downtown redevelopment director in Casper, Wyoming, and five years as the city administrator of Caldwell, Idaho. Teri can be reached at 208/321-4819 or [amsol@micron.net](mailto:amsol@micron.net).

## Special Insert

In this issue we depart from our usual 4-page format to bring two items of special interest on pages 3 and 4. The first is a copy of a letter sent to all tree care companies in the Magic Valley. It is an innovative attempt at using education to help put an end to the malpractice of topping. Please read this and see if you might be able to adapt it for use in your area. Page 4 is a reprint of an article that makes a case for the importance of trees in our communities. As with all material in this newsletter, feel free to make copies for wider distribution to all who should have this information about community trees.

## **A Letter to Help Put an End to Topping**

Dear <Name of Tree Service Contact Person>:

The below signed tree commissions/committees have noted in a recent advertisement that you are offering tree services to residents and businesses of the Magic Valley. We are pleased to have people caring for one of our community's most valuable assets. Additionally, we are interested in the manner of care being offered to our citizens.

As educated and informed commissioners or committee members, we are well aware of the devastating effects of improper tree pruning or other care. Unfortunately, not all Magic Valley citizens are as knowledgeable about proper tree care practices. One of our primary objectives is to educate the public about such issues. As a tree care provider, you're in an important position to help. The most recognized evidence of professionalism with respect to tree pruning is individual certification as a Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Ideally, all tree care companies would employ an ISA Certified Arborist to oversee the pruning done to trees in the Magic Valley. We recognize this may not be feasible for all companies at this time, however we continue to pursue this very goal. If you are interested in more information about the arborist certification program, please contact your local tree commission or the ISA.

This is the start of the tree pruning or trimming season. We've observed that a pruning method known as "topping" is being employed to some of the trees around the Magic Valley. Topping is the practice of cutting relatively large branches from a tree, and leaving the ends of the cuts without branches or limbs maintaining a leaf surface to support the tree. Topping is very detrimental to the health of the tree and dangerous in subsequent time as the tree struggles to regain branches to support leaf surface. It is unprofessional, unattractive, and it may also be unlawful.

If the trees that were topped are on city property or right-of-way you may be subject to a citation. We're more interested in educating tree care businesses and property owners than issuing citations or fines. However, if topping were to occur multiple times, less lenient action may be taken. Property owners are being notified of improper pruning practices occurring on their property. If you are topping trees, you may be certain that it will result in some negative publicity in the future as the public becomes aware of the unprofessional and potentially unlawful pruning methods. Magic Valley residents and businesses are being notified of the incorrect pruning practices as observed by the commissions. We urge you to stop topping if it is one of your current practices.

Enclosed you'll find some reference material about some of the tree commissions, Magic Valley trees, and proper pruning practices. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact any of the below.

Very Truly Yours,

(Signed by the city forester, parks director, or tree board chairperson in Buhl, Burley, Heyburn, Jerome, Ruppert, and Twin Falls, each also showing their Tree City USA status)



# Trees and Democracy

By James R. Fazio

We learned many lessons from the 20th century that can help us do a better job in the 21st. But we need to go back to the 19th century – April 10, 1872, to be exact – for a way of looking at trees that may be essential to promoting urban forestry in the coming years.

The first Arbor Day was celebrated on that landmark date and its founder, J. Sterling Morton, used the occasion to show how trees benefit people – *all* people.

Morton said “There is a true triumph in the unswerving integrity and genuine democracy of trees.” He noted that trees grow just as fast for the poor as for the rich and that rain and sunshine form partnerships with no regard to the influence of money or power. Best of all, Morton said, the planted tree graces the humblest cabin with the same refreshing beauty and fruitfulness as it does the king’s palace.

This concept should be more apparent today than ever. The urban forest that sequesters carbon dioxide and gives off oxygen cleans the air for everyone to breathe. Its shade cools the poor as well as the rich in downtown streets. It enhances the shopping environment of a mom and pop store as much as it does for an upscale mall. At the playground, shade protects tender skin from melanoma regardless of income or social status.

The universal distribution of benefits from trees is no different than the carefully planned availability of water, sewers and electrical systems in our communities. In fact, it has been proposed that we describe and promote street and park trees as part of the city’s infrastructure. This strikes me as a great idea. Infrastructure is a term understood and close to the heart of city officials and most residents. While

‘trees as infrastructure’ may not be quite as catchy as “Got milk?” it does send a clearer message to engineers and city councils than we have been able to communicate through the vague arguments of “beauty” or “environmental quality.” (To my chagrin, some well-meaning person has already obfuscated the message by coining the term, “greeninfrastructure.”)

The big difference between trees and the more traditional components of infrastructure is that ordinary citizens get involved with the installation and maintenance of trees. This, of course, is not true in the case of water and sewer pipes or electric wires. But so much the better. Again, trees illustrate their democratic nature by allowing everyone to participate. The results of this are reported regularly in *California Trees* and other publications. We see projects such as Long Beach’s inner-city tree planting that involved 28 local organizations and brought diverse ethnic groups together for the first time working side by side toward a common goal. We see a 16-year-old boy in Malad, Idaho, stirring his community to action and Tree City USA status. We see 101-year-old Paul Anderson still planting trees and holding forth on the Silverhill, Alabama, tree board.

Trees have long brought pleasure to the rich and famous. George Washington often mentioned in his journal tinkering with trees in his gardens. Thomas Jefferson made Monticello into a virtual arboretum. Marie Antoinette had a “beloved tulip poplar” that was finally blown down in the storms that plagued Europe at Christmas.

Trees have also recently brought profound changes to the lives of kids teetering on the edge of crime and the world of drugs. I write regularly about these kids in *Arbor Day* newsletter. The latest article was about teachers in Omaha and Denver who sponsor student organizations that have converted

school grounds into living laboratories. An example of the cases documented by the teachers involves a young girl who was clearly headed toward trouble. As a member of Earthsavers in middle school, she discovered a love of green things that converted her into an ‘A’ student in high school biology. Like kids nationwide who have been exposed to tree planting projects, she also discovered self-esteem, pride in one’s work, responsibility and the other ingredients of success too often missing in the lives of young people.

If trees are to retain their position of importance in the 21st century, it will be essential to spotlight their universal contributions, particularly as they affect positive change in human lives.

John Rosenow, president of The National Arbor Day Foundation, recently offered some insight into his organization that can be applied to all tree organizations. “We want to help people develop an emotional connection with the people dimension of our mission,” he wrote. Thanks to trees and tree organizations, “the environment is made better ... but perhaps more importantly, people’s lives are made better.”

*All people’s lives.*

**Dr. Fazio** is a professor of resource recreation and tourism at the University of Idaho and writer/editor for *The National Arbor Day Foundation*.

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*For more information about community forestry, contact Craig Foss, Community Forestry Coordinator at the Idaho Department of Lands, (800) 432-4648, or visit the AIC Web site at <http://www.idahocities.org> and follow the city trees link.*





## 2000-01 Grant Awards

Here are the results of projects funded during the last grant cycle by the Idaho Dept. of Lands Community Forestry Program:

### *Community Transportation Enhancement*

Funds provided by the Idaho Transportation Dept. for landscaping urban travel corridors. \$100,000 available; \$198,383 requested.

American Falls - \$13,255

Arco - \$2,673

Cambridge - \$9,455

Hagerman - \$1,958

Heyburn - \$11,500

Kellogg - \$4,840

Ketchum - \$13,848

Malad - \$12,818

Pocatello - \$3,840

Potlatch/Onaway - \$11,613

Rupert - \$15,000

### *Urban & Community Forestry Program Development*

Grants for projects such as inventories, management plans, education, one-time management projects and other program needs. \$25,000 available; \$85,093 requested.

Coeur d'Alene - \$2,080

Downey - \$812

Idaho Falls - \$2,300

Inkom - \$3,700

Nampa - \$1,560

Post Falls - \$2,684

Potlatch/Onaway - \$4,000

Sandpoint - \$4,000

Smelterville - \$4,000

### *Urban & Community Forestry Tree Planting*

Grants to help communities plant new areas, replace dangerous trees, enhance entrances, streets and parks, and similar projects involving the purchase and planting of trees and shrubs. \$10,000 available; \$22,250 requested.

American Falls - \$1,500

Caldwell - \$1,005

Downey - \$1,275

Freedom - \$1,500 (Note: Freedom park is located in Idaho.

The city is on the ID/WY border and has a Wyoming address.)

Lava Hot Springs - \$969

Nampa - \$832

Payette - \$1,500

Post Falls - \$1,419

## Calendar

### February 12 – March 16

**ARBOR DAY GRANT SIGN-UP.** Grants of \$150 will be available to 50 Idaho cities. Applications are posted on the Community Forestry Web page ([www.idahocities.org/Forestry%20Homepage.htm](http://www.idahocities.org/Forestry%20Homepage.htm)).

### February 28

**Idaho Arbor Day Poster Contest Deadline.** (Milt Williams, IDL Information Officer, 208/334-0241 or [mwilliams@idl.state.id.us](mailto:mwilliams@idl.state.id.us))

### March 6-8

**Social Issues and the Environment: A Green Approach to Improving our Communities,** Nebraska City, NE. (National Arbor Day Foundation, 888-448-7337 or [www.arborday.org/socialissues](http://www.arborday.org/socialissues))

### March 9

**Summit 2001: Salmon Recovery, Urban Sprawl & Livability,** Corvallis, OR. (Al Kitzman, Benton County Parks, 541/766-6018)

### April 23-26

**Great Basin/N. Rockies Fire Prevention Workshop,** Whitefish, MT. (Visit [www.keepgreen.org/workshop.htm](http://www.keepgreen.org/workshop.htm))

### April 27

**ARBOR DAY!** Join the celebration – start planning early.

### Sept. 5-8

**National Urban Forestry Conference – Investing in Natural Capital,** Washington, DC. (Contact American Forests or Kasey Russell at 304/345-7578)

## 2001 ISA Arborist Certification Review Sessions and Exam Dates

Do you work with trees or supervise others that do? It's not too late to make a good New Year's resolution to pursue arborist certification. The purpose of certification is to make sure that everyone who works with trees has the basic knowledge necessary for the proper care of this valuable resource. For more information, contact the PNW Chapter Office of the International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263.

March 9-10 Twin Falls. Certification Exam Review Session. (Contact David Kiesig, College of Southern Idaho at 208/733-9554 ext 2606 to register.)

April 7 Spokane — Certification Exam

June 2 Twin Falls — Certification Exam



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# Tree tip

## Join the Trend of 'Advancements'

The Society of American Foresters, the national scientific and educational organization of the forestry profession, has compiled a "Top Ten" list of forestry-related advances over the past century. Note No. 6! Is your community among the trend-setters in urban & community forestry?

1. Reforestation (6 seedlings planted for every tree harvested)
2. Fire protection (at turn of century, 20-50 million acres burned annually; today it is 2-5 million)
3. Affordable products and reduction in waste (more of every tree is utilized)
4. The return of wildlife (Many species have returned from the brink of extinction and habitat improvement will help even more)
5. Wilderness protection (More set-aside land than any other country in the world)
6. Urban forestry (Municipal ordinances, civic participation and growth of urban forestry have resulted in the planting and maintenance of millions of trees in cities and towns, enhancing the quality of life and saving energy costs and usage.)
7. Research (Scientists have helped reduce pest problems and make our forests the most productive, sustainable and healthiest in the world)
8. Satellite imagery and other technology (Many uses have improved efficiency and effectiveness in forest management)
9. Recreation (Population and demands have increased tremendously)
10. Professional education (48 4-year and 24 2-year-associates programs of higher education are accredited by SAF, including the University of Idaho)

MORE INFORMATION about the Society of American Foresters is available at [www.safnet.org](http://www.safnet.org).

